

From: "ehendrsn@redsuspenders.com%inter2" <ehendrsn@redsuspenders.com>
Subject: Farm Bill 2007 Official Comments - 12/21/2005 08:34 AM CST
Date Sent: 12/21/2005 08:34:24 CST
Date Received: 12/21/2005 08:35:44 CST

Email: ehendrsn@redsuspenders.com
FirstName: Elizabeth
LastName: Henderson
Address1: 2218 Welcher Road
Address2:
City: Newark
State: New York
zipcode: 14513
Question1:
Question2:
Question3: Farm Bill Priorities for the Northeast Organic Farming Association
December, 2005
Submission for the USDA Listening Sessions for the 2007 Farm Bill

The Organic Food Production Act (OFPA):

The National Organic Program (NOP) must conform with the Organic Food Production Act by appointing a peer review panel and make the changes necessary to come into compliance with ISO 65. The NOP should accept the NOSB recommendations on pasture requirements for ruminants and respond to the 30 recommendations from the NOSB on which the NOP has so far remained silent

1. Add categories and criteria for the use of a very limited number of synthetic or non-organic agricultural substances in organic processed foods.
2. Clarify that all dairy replacements must be raised as organic from the last third of gestation.
3. silent.

USDA Programs outside the NOP:

1. Retain the regional equity provisions of the 2002 Farm Bill. These provisions ensured that every state received at least \$12 million in farm bill programs annually.
2. Research Title ? designate 10% percent of research funding for research in organic agriculture. Create a comprehensive strategy for organic research based on the Organic Farm Research Foundation (OFRF) SCOAR plan. There must be greater funding for research projects that do not generate intellectual property, such as patents for seed varieties and pesticide ingredients. Open pollinated seed, crop rotations, green manure-based fertility, the relationship between pasture and livestock health ? projects in these areas do not attract commercial partners for land grant researchers and must be funded through government support.
 - a. increase research on soil quality
 - b. increase funding for organic seeds and breeds research:
 - c. increase support for organic on-farm research
 - d. reauthorize sec. 7408 ? international organic research collaboration
 - e. provide support for research on equipment suitable for small

farms

f. increase research on renewable fuels for agriculture

Cost Share for Certification fees ? reauthorize sec. 10606 and increase the cap to \$1000 per farm

GMO liability legislation: liability for contamination should be the responsibility of the manufacturer of the GMO seeds.

Continued and Improving Market and Production Data ? reauthorize sec. 7407

Cost Share for non-profit Certification Programs to meet the increased costs when the NOP charges full Accreditation fees in the second round. These increased fees should be covered by federal funding.

Conservation Security Program

- a. include cost-share for on-farm seed saving and breeding
- b. remove funding restrictions so that all farms that qualify will receive payments
- c. include language in the regulations stating that an organic farm plan qualifies a farm for the 3rd (and highest) tier of CSP funding

Child Nutrition Programs:

- a. oppose cuts in Food Stamps and limitations to their use by recent immigrants
- b. organic food for school lunches ? support funding for farm to school legislation
- c. increase support for Farmers markets
- d. increase support for Farmers Market Nutrition Program and allow the use of coupons for Farm stands and Community Supported Agriculture projects
- e. authorize WIC coupons to be used for organic foods
- f. create a farm to hospital program

Establish coordination among the organic-related activities of the various USDA divisions: AMS-NOP, ARS, CREES, ERS, FAS, NAL, NASS, NRCS, RMA, etc. and liaison with EPA, FDA and other Federal Agencies

Create legislation on the national level, modeled on the California program, establishing Fair contracts for organic farms selling to brokers and processors

Payment Limitations:

- a. restrict all federal payments per farm to a level that supports family scale farming and encourages sustainable practices
- b. eliminate loop holes that allow non-farming landowners and multiple family members from a single farm to collect payments

Country of Origin Labeling ? this was passed in the 2002 Farm Bill, but Congress and USDA have held up implementation. Implement this program immediately.

Fund the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, a competitive grants program to fund initiatives directed at new farming opportunities

Continue the Value-Added Producer Grants Program

Amend the legislation supporting cooperative development to include Community Supported Agriculture projects and other farmer-consumer

cooperatives.

Continue support for SARE and increase funding

Continue support for ATTRA and increase funding

16. Access to Farmland:

- a. increase funding for Purchase of Development Rights
- b. Provide pensions for farmers who sell their farmland to younger farmers (\$150,000 over 10 years)
- c. offer tax incentives for landowners who keep their land in farming
- d. increase the Farm Service Agency cap on farm purchase loans to \$500,000 (from \$200,000, which is not adequate given the inflation in land values, especially close to cities)

17. Support Fair Trade Agreements so that all countries can achieve domestic food security (food sovereignty).

- a. eliminate the sale of commodities below the cost of production
- b. seek agreements with exporting countries to eliminate resource-depleting overproduction
- c. ensure that environmental protection, fair wages and worker rights are part of every trade agreement

Question4:

Question5:

Question6: